

SECRET

CLASSIFICATION SECRET/SECURITY INFORMATION

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT

COUNTRY USSR

DATE DISTR. 13 Feb 1952

SUBJECT Political Indoctrination in the Soviet Army

NO. OF PAGES 4

PLACE ACQUIRED

NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)

DATE ACQUIRED

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

DATE OF

THIS DOCUMENT CONTAINS INFORMATION RELATING TO THE NATIONAL DEFENSE OF THE UNITED STATES, WITHIN THE MEANING OF TITLE 18, U.S. CODE, SECTION 7701 AND 7742, OF THE U.S. CODE, AS AMENDED. ITS TRANSMISSION, DISSEMINATION, OR RETENTION OF ITS CONTENTS TO ANY PERSON BY AN UNAUTHORIZED PERSON IS PROHIBITED BY LAW. THE REPRODUCTION OF THIS FORM IS PROHIBITED.

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

50X1-HUM

50X1-HUM

2 Since December 1950 a deputy commander for political affairs has been established at the company level with the rank of Jr Lt or Captain.

3 Deputy commanders for political affairs at battalion level were abolished at the time company political officers were established. Company political officers are now responsible to the regimental deputy commander for political affairs, thus automatically removing the need for the battalion political officer.

4 during World War II the Soviet leaders could appeal to Russian nationalism and patriotism on the basis of a ruthless German invasion of Soviet territory. However, in a future conflict they must convince Soviet Army troops that war is necessary to fight the "enemies of Communism" even though these enemies do not overtly attack the Soviet homeland. Therefore, the step of establishing company political officers was only one phase of a stepped up Soviet program to politically indoctrinate all elements of the Soviet Army in the righteousness of a Communist inspired war.

50X1-HUM

5 An elaborate network of informers and bureaus exists in the Soviet Army for disciplining Soviet Army personnel who break the rules and regulations of the Communist Party. Political officers and their assistants act as informers. They report to the Regimental Party Bureau all anti-Soviet acts. The Regimental Party Bureau reviews the facts of a case and forwards its recommendations for disciplinary action to the Division Party Commission which makes the final decisions.

SECRET

CLASSIFICATION SECRET/SECURITY INFORMATION

STATE	X	NAVY	X	DISTRIBUTION				
ARMY	X	AIR	X Dec	X FBI	X			

SECRET/SECURITY INFORMATION

-2-

SECRET

50X1-HUM

There are five degrees of punishment which the Regimental Party Bureau may recommend to the Party Commission for infraction of Communist Party rules and regulations.

- (a) Off the record verbal Party reprimand, a warning, that another infraction of Communist Party rules will lead to severe disciplinary action.
- (b) A Party reprimand entered into the record.
- (c) A severe Party reprimand entered into the record.
- (d) A severe Party reprimand entered on the records with a warning of expulsion from the Party.
- (e) A recommendation of expulsion from the Party.

The Division Party Commission may hand down a decision following the recommendations of the regimental Party Bureau except for expulsion from the Party. In the case expulsion from the Party is recommended the Division Party Commission is required to forward the recommendations to the Military District Political Directorate who makes the final decision. If the guilty party has been a Party member of long standing and holds a relatively high position the Central Committee of the Communist Party usually assumes the responsibility for the case.

Political officers do not have any special Party disciplinary power beyond the authority conveyed upon them by their military rank. They may and are encouraged to act as informers and to recommend to the Regimental Party Bureau a course of action.

Ninety-five percent of Soviet Army officers are Party members and consequently subject to Party discipline. In the case of EM and NCOs only one fifth are Party members. The remainder of EM and NCOs fall outside Party disciplinary control. However, 25-30% of EM and NCOs are Komsomol members and, therefore, come under the disciplinary powers of that organization which parallel the system of the Communist Party.

The MGB has limitless powers for disciplining Party as well as non-Party personnel of the Soviet Army. A special counter intelligence section consisting of 30 officers and EM at Division level has the power to arrest and deport all violators. At regimental level one to two special MGB Investigators maintain a special MGB section which gathers information from a network of informers among Soviet Army personnel. The Regimental Party Bureau and all political officers are required to report all anti-Party activity to the regimental MGB section. The MGB has free access to all material gathered by the Regimental Party Bureau, the Division Party Commission and political officers.

5

Soviet Army officers and EM abhor political indoctrination lectures and constantly try to be doing some important work at the time of lectures which will suffice as an excuse for not attending. However, strict disciplinary action, even imprisonment, may follow a continued absence from political indoctrination courses. Soviet officers and EM take only the minimum interest necessary, in political indoctrination work to keep from being reprimanded.

6

the Western Powers, as usual, were referred to as the imperialists in contrast to the peaceful intentions of the Soviet Union and the Soviet Army. The general impression conveyed by political organs was the necessity of being prepared for war because of the threat to the Soviet Union presented by the "imperialistic Western warmongers."

7

All publications of the Soviet government were available [redacted] Red Star, The Military Herald, The Soviet Warrior, and Pravda. Local military papers at the unit level were available at no cost.

8

[redacted] Libraries are furnished with news-papers for the enlisted man, as well as the officers' clubs. The following papers were among those available to enlisted men: Red Star, Pravda, Izvestia, Komolskaya Pravda, Trud, and the magazines Krokodil and The Soviet Warrior.

9

SECRET

50X1-HUM

SECRET

50X1-HUM

SECRET/SECURITY INFORMATION

-3-

One half-hour of free time is allowed to all soldiers every day, during which time they may read the newspapers. It is usually in the evening.

10.

They have a general knowledge of what is happening in the world and do not reflect upon it deeply because they are more interested in events directly affecting their lives. They know that much of the news concerning conditions and events in the Soviet Union is false through their own experience.

11.

Soviet soldiers (enlisted men) are able to listen to the radio every day in their recreation centers, although the individual men do not have radios. Officers have access to more private radios and are able to listen to the VOA and BBC.

12.

The propaganda is boring to all. Sometimes records are played and they are enjoyable.

13.

the VOA and BBC broadcasts

50X1-HUM

have been instrumental in causing the defection of Soviet officers in East Berlin.

14.

between various activities and in battle during quiet periods sergeants frequently read newspapers to the men and emphasize the current propaganda.

15.

they are extremely boring, and are immediately dismissed from any conversation among the men.

50X1-HUM

16.

"Artistic" films are shown, such as "The Count of Monte Cristo". Ten minute news reels are shown with every film.

17.

Enlisted men are permitted to attend movies two nights a week, Saturday and Sunday. Officers may see films every day.

18.

19.

20.

evidence of disaffection in the ranks

is not expressed openly except in the East Berlin sector.

21.

the Soviet people knew of General Eisenhower. During World War II, he was well known as the Allied Military Commander in the West and the Soviet newspapers and radios carried favorable stories about him. Moreover, it was known to all that Marshal Zhukov gave him a fur coat in appreciation of his services and that General Eisenhower was favorably received in Moscow upon his visit there after the war. However, as soon as he accepted the position of Supreme Commander of the North Atlantic Treaty

SECRET

SECRET/SECURITY INFORMATION